



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Little League Scores Double Play with County

SAN BERNARDINO - The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors agreed on Tuesday to partner with Upland Little League to install artificial turf and a public address system at a city-owned baseball field used by the league.

Second District Supervisor Paul Biane requested \$140,000 from the Board's priority policy needs budget to pay for about 42,000 square feet of artificial turf for Bob Hargis Ball field at Olivedale Park. The league raised about \$100,000 to help pay for the turf, and volunteers are helping prepare the field for the turf installation.

In addition, the Supervisor adjusted the Second District's Community Development Block Grant Funding plan to provide funding for a public address system at the field. This will cost approximately \$10,000.

Unlike many other youth sports leagues, the Upland Little League - founded in 1954 - does not charge a registration fee, and only requires players to provide gloves, shoes and belts. The league, which serves about 450 boys and girls, pays for field maintenance, uniforms, and other costs through sponsorships,

snack bar sales, and fundraisers. Volunteers also help keep costs in check by helping maintain the field and working at the snack bar.

The new all-turf field will make play safer for youngsters between the ages of 5 and 10 who use the Hargis Ball field. The dirt infield can be like “concrete” for sliding players, Upland Little League President Ralph Cavallo said. The turf will also prevent odd ball bounces that can seriously injure young players.

Cavallo said he was thrilled the County and the Second District Supervisor were willing to help the nonprofit organization.

“This is how government should be helping,” he said. “You have to give these kids something to do” so they won’t get into trouble.

Cindy Muniz, a parent whose three sons play in the Upland Little League, said she likes the values her children have developed playing baseball with other youth.

“It teaches them not to be quitters, and how to be respectful to others and how to be team players,” she said.

Supervisor Biane commended the Upland Little League for helping keep children active and healthy and for choosing not to charge a registration fee.

“The new turf will cut maintenance costs and save the league money in the long run,” he said. “The artificial grass also will help conserve water and cut costs for the city of Upland, which pays to water the field.”

Reporters can contact Upland Little League President Ralph Cavallo at (909) 982-7644. Parent Cindy Muniz can be contacted at (909) 560-3505.